

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

**State Capitol, Room 127
Sacramento, CA**

**Minutes of Meeting
February 22, 2007**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Cathie Bennett Warner, Chair
Michele Burton, M.P.H.
Wilma Chan
Diane Griffiths
Jerome Horton
Vicki Marti
Nancy McFadden

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Toby Douglas, Department of Health Services
Thomas Williams, Department of Finance

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT**CMAC STAFF PRESENT**

Keith Berger, Executive Director
Tacia Carroll
Paul Cerles
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Katie Knudson
Marilyn Nishikawa
Ina Pewitt
Steve Soto
Becky Swol
Michael Tagupa
Mervin Tamai
Karen Thalhammer

I. Call to Order

The February 22, 2007 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Chair Cathie Bennett Warner.

II. Approval of Minutes

The February 8, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Keith Berger, Executive Director, began his report by asking the Commissioners for their formal approval of CMAC's 2007-08 meeting schedule. He explained that staff had not made any changes to the proposed dates shared with them at the last meeting.

Mr. Berger thanked the Commissioners for their approval and said the new schedule will be posted on the CMAC website, and copies will be available to the public at future CMAC meetings. He assured the Commissioners that if there is a need to reschedule or cancel one of the meetings, it is always possible to do that based on a vote of the Commission or by decision of the Chair.

Mr. Berger said he would keep his comments short because of a presentation today as part of the Department of Health Services report.

In regards to the hospital supplemental funds, Mr. Berger informed the Commissioners that the negotiation process is continuing with hospitals regarding Round 2B amounts. However, he said that CMAC staff plans to have a number of amendments before the Commissioners for their review and action at the March 8 CMAC meeting.

Finally, Mr. Berger noted that today, there were seven amendments and contracts before the Commissioners for review and action in closed session, as well as a number of important negotiation updates.

IV. Department of Health Services (CDHS) Report

On behalf of Ex-Officio Commissioner, Toby Douglas, CDHS, who had not yet arrived, Mr. Berger introduced Mr. Richard Figueroa from the Governor's Office, who agreed to give CMAC an overview of the Governor's Health Care Proposal (attached). Mr. Figueroa explained the intentions of the Governor's initiative were to bring accessible, efficient and affordable health care to every Californian. He noted that the Governor's plan addresses our broken health care system and the hidden tax that every insured Californian pays to subsidize the uninsured. Individuals, government, doctors and hospitals, insurers and employers all have equal responsibility for health care reform. By promoting health and wellness, covering the uninsured and increasing affordability, he said, California can create a model that the rest of the nation can follow. Mr. Figueroa indicated that the impact of such a major reconstructing of the health care system on the roles of many organizations, including CMAC, was unknown at this time, but that the Administration wants to work with affected agencies to explore roles in the implementation of the reforms. The attached summary of the Governor's Health Care proposal provides more detail regarding Mr. Figueroa's presentation.

Mr. Figueroa also responded to a range of questions from Commissioners on issues such as coverage approaches for uninsured and undocumented individuals, reimbursement of hospitals and managed care plans, emergency room options, benefit levels of purchasing pool coverage's and regulation of individuals' mandates.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no comments from the public, Chair Bennett Warner recessed the open session. Chair Bennett Warner opened the closed session, and after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair Bennett Warner announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital and managed care contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.